

DRAFT

ANIMAL ISSUES TASK FORCE

Monday, July 1, 2013

6:00 p.m.

4th Floor Conference Room – Busch Municipal Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Collette, Chairwoman; Carl Woodland, Janet Martin, Gwen Evans, Carrie Galvan, Karenanne Fitzsimmons, Kathleen Cowans, and Alicia Mathis.

MEMBERS

ABSENT: Dr. Rita Wittu, Dr. Dave Weddle, Christian Mechlin, and Cindy Larson.

Note: Christian Mechlin and Cindy Larson have resigned due to conflicts, and there are no replacements for these two vacancy positions at this time.

STAFF Karen Prescott, Mike Brothers, and Nichole Fowler, Health Department.

GUESTS: None.

Chairwoman Mary Collette called the meeting to order at approximately 6:25 p.m., and a quorum was present.

Karenanne Fitzsimmons made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2013 meeting. Gwen Evans seconded. The minutes were approved.

The Task Force continued working on the draft of Recommendation #3 regarding Policies & Legislations.

The description of the proposed Animal Issues Input Group was changed to more accurately reflect that it is intended to be an ongoing advisory committee that will examine animal issues as they come up and provide recommendations and feedback to City Council.

The definition of “owned cat” was changed to remove references to a trap-neuter-release program. A discussion of the definition of “owned cats” ensued. Kathleen Cowans stated that the definition should be written in a way that holds people who feed stray cats accountable for their actions in some way. Janet Martin shared some statistics that SAAF House gathered from Crosslines food pantry participants which showed that even people who have trouble feeding themselves or their family still purchased cat food for strays. The discussion will be revisited at future meetings.

The Task Force then moved to the draft of Recommendation #2 regarding Programs.

Chairwoman Collette suggested that all of the programs listed in a handout from Ms. Martin be included in the draft. Ms. Martin’s document includes information on program ideas taken from the communities of Austin, Texas; Reno, Nevada; and San Jose, California. They include:

- Create a volunteer public-relations task force
- Establish community advisory meetings
- Compile a pet-friendly housing list
- Create a help desk program
- Create a barn cat adoption program

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A work group was established to weave in these program ideas to the overall Recommendations #2 document. That group will convene before the next full Task Force meeting. A revised draft of Recommendation #2 will be sent to the full Task Force after the work group completes it but before the next full meeting.

Next, Karen Prescott, Environmental Administrator-Springfield/Greene County Health Department, gave the Task Force an overview of the Dickerson Park Zoo's Friends of the Zoo program. Friends of the Zoo (FOZ) was established in the 1980s as way to help fund programs at the Zoo and expand its educational mission. FOZ gains revenue from selling Zoo memberships, hosting marquee fundraiser events and from sales collected at the Zoo gift shop. While the details would be much different, the core concept of a group of concerned citizens supporting its programs is a model the animal shelter could consider. More information about FOZ can be found online at: <http://www.dickersonparkzoo.org/foz.html>.

The Task Force set its next two meeting dates for 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 5 and Monday, Aug. 26. The deadline City Council has given the Task Force to complete its work is Sept. 1. Chairwoman Collette said City Manager Greg Burris has informed her that he intends to schedule a presentation to City Council sometime in the month of September.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.